

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 05536 270925Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 /050 W
-----051341 270943Z /13
P R 270830Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1913
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, KS
SUBJECT: JUNE 26 STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS

REF: SEOUL 5042

1. SUMMARY: DESPITE HEAVY POLICE PRESENCE, STUDENTS ASSEMBLED AT VARIOUS POINTS IN DOWNTOWN SEOUL KWANGHWANUN INTERSECTION AND CARRIED ON SHORT ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATION EVENING OF JUNE 26. SOURCES REPORT AS MANY AS 40 STUDENTS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY. BUT ARRESTS IF ANY NOT KNOWN AT THIS POINT.

2. DURING JUNE 12 SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY DEMONSTRATION, STUDENTS CALLED FOR MASS MEETING OF STUDENTS ON JUNE 26, 6 PM AT KWANGHWANUN INTERSECTION. THUS, POLICE WERE WELL AWARE OF POSSIBILITY AND BY AFTERNOON OF JUNE 26 HAD STATIONED HUNDREDS OF POLICE (UNIFORMED, PLAIN CLOTHES AND RIOT POLICE) IN KWANGHWANUN VICINITY. POLICE WERE SEEN CHECKING BRIEF CASES OF MANY STUDENTS IN THE VICINITY. DESPITE THIS PRESENCE, ACCORDING TO TWO SOURCES, AS
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MANY AS 1,000 STUDENTS CAME TO THE AREA AND FOR SHORT PERIODS ASSEMBLED IN GROUPS OF 2-300. STUDENTS REPORTEDLY CALLED FOR ELIMINATION OF YUSIN SYSTEM AND ATTEMPTED TO SING PROTEST SONGS. SOURCES REPORT SMALL NUMBER OF STUDENTS PHYSICALLY CLASHED WITH POLICE WHO ATTEMPTED TO DISPERSE CROWDS.

3. ACCORDING TO TWO DIFFERENT SOURCES, AS MANY AS 40 STUDENTS HAD BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY; ARRESTS, IF ANY, ARE NOT KNOWN AT THIS POINT. IN ADDITION, FIVE MINISTERS WERE REPORTEDLY DETAINED BY POLICE.

4. JUNE 26 DEMONSTRATION, ALTHOUGH DISPERSED IN LESS THAN AN HOUR, IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IT MARKS FIRST OFF-CAMPUS, PUBLIC ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATION IN SIX YEARS. IN ADDITION, STUDENTS NOT ONLY MANAGED TO ASSEMBLE IN LARGE NUMBERS IN DOWNTOWN SEOUL, BUT DID SO IN SPITE OF POLICE FORE-KNOWLEDGE AND PREPARATION. STERN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, UNIVERSITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL05536
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780265-1162
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780616/aaaaanhm.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cb79e57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SEOUL 5042
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2192656
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JUNE 26 STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
TAGS: PINS, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cb79e57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014